

Maine Small Business  
Technical Assistance Program  
1-800-789-9802  
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Maine Department of  
Environmental Protection  
1-800-452-1942  
[www.state.me.us/dep](http://www.state.me.us/dep)

**Smart Business Practices**  
**Boat Building & Repair**  
*Management of Hazardous Waste-*  
*Compliance Determinations*

**Benefits/Background:** Building and repairing fiberglass or composite material boats requires handling of some hazardous materials and resulting \*hazardous wastes that present a potential risk to the people involved. Doing the work properly can require wearing protective clothing and respirators, along with other protection from flammable and possibly explosive materials and wastes. Administering environmental and worker health and safety laws and regulations can help the making and repairing of boats be as safe as possible. Practicing compliance with environmental and worker health and safety standards is a goal that makes sense.

For some insight on how we are doing, below are listed some real compliance determinations made by environmental inspectors at several Maine boat building businesses. Knowing these more common problems associated with the use of hazardous materials and wastes can help you stay informed and stay on top of your business.

\* Hazardous waste can be determined by a *characteristic* (there are four: ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxic characteristic leaching procedure TCLP) or because it is specifically *listed*.

Some Common Compliance Determinations as noted by real DEP inspectors (the don'ts of hazardous waste management)...

1. Failure to keep containers of hazardous waste closed except when adding and removing waste. (Evaporation of hazardous waste in the air exposes workers to additional toxic vapors and is considered treatment without a license.)

2. Evaporation (treatment) of hazardous waste. (See above.)
3. Failure to label containers of hazardous waste (with the words "Hazardous Waste") and include the date upon which waste accumulation began. (This insures that waste is identified and that waste is taken off site on a timely basis.)
4. Failure to store hazardous waste containers on a firm working surface (such as asphalt or concrete) which is impervious, entire, and constructed to prevent spillage from leaving the area.
5. Failure to conduct and document daily inspections for all containers of hazardous waste. (Daily inspections help to insure that any leaks or spills are caught before they become a bigger problem.)
6. Failure to conduct and document a personnel training program for hazardous waste management.
7. Failure to determine if waste is hazardous waste.
8. Discharge of oil into or upon waters, land, or air within the State without being licensed or authorized under state or federal law.

Above are some of the more common problems that DEP inspectors have found and brought to the attention of businesses. Some problems can result in further DEP review, including increased enforcement action with associated monetary penalties. Problems like these can be avoided by keeping up with basic "housekeeping" for worker health and environment. Please contact our small business assistance program at the DEP for more information about boat building and repair or other questions. The phone numbers and DEP web site are listed above.